

# New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation Emergency Preparedness

Secretary's Council on Public Health  
Department of Health & Human Services

Van H. Dunn, M.D., MPH  
Chief Medical Officer

May 4, 2004



# Who We Are

- Nation's largest public hospital system
- 11 acute care hospitals
- 4 long-term care facilities
- Over 100 community health care centers
- 6 State designated trauma centers
- Certified home health agency

# Who We Serve

- 1.3 million New Yorkers
- 468,387 uninsured patients
- One-fifth of general hospital discharges
- One third of NYC's emergency room and hospital based clinic visits
- 5 million outpatient visits
- 210,000 inpatient discharges
- Provides services for the City's uniformed officers (police, fire, EMS)
- Prisoners in NYC jail system

# Disaster Readiness

- Our primary and secondary service areas cover two-thirds of the City's total geographic area.
- Consequently, every HHC facility must be prepared to respond to all emergencies which in turn means that significant resources must be devoted to ensuring wide-spread readiness.

# Funding Received Since WTC Disaster

- Since September 11, 2001, HHC applied for \$34 million in grant funds from FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program to ensure that our facilities were adequately prepared for WMD – we did not receive any funds.
- Despite our need for federal financial assistance, we have received very little support. Thus, HHC has invested millions of its own dollars to enhance our ability to respond to a biological, radiological or nuclear event in order to protect the residents of New York.

# HRSA Hospital Preparedness Funding

## 2002 Year I – HRSA FUNDS: (\$832,000.00)

- HHC received \$40,000 per each of its 11 acute care hospitals totaling \$440,000.
- Then another \$35,700 per hospital (a 20% early release of Round II funds), totaling \$392,700.
- These funds could only support the purchase of miscellaneous supplies and equipment, e.g., digital camera's, PPE, training materials, hand held metal detectors, radiation detectors, computers and enhanced walkie talkie systems.

# HRSA Hospital Preparedness Funding

## 2003 Year II - HRSA funds

- \$50,000 per hospital (\$550,000)
- Table Top Exercise : 3 out of 11 hospitals received funding - \$10,000/hospital
- Smallpox Vaccination Clinic Funding: 2 out of 11 hospitals received funding—\$20,000/hospital
- Participation in 2 HRSA funded Centers for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Planning

# Priority Areas

- Increased security measures – protection of plant, patients & employees
- Installation of decontamination units
- Increased isolation and surge capacity
- Stockpiling medications
- Adequate personal protective equipment
- Enhanced communication & information technology
- Enhance surveillance system for potential outbreaks
- Provision of on-going education/training to ensure that staff have the ability to identify and respond to a biological, chemical, radiological or nuclear event



# Federal Support

- It is essential that hospitals obtain the resources they need to continue to enhance and maintain all-hazards emergency preparedness.
- The price of preparedness is great and on-going, and there is no indication that hospitals in NYC will be able to stand down because risk of weapons of mass destruction remains high.
- There is a continued need for federal support to maintain and sustain hospital preparedness.

# Federal Support

- Funding for hospital preparedness allows HHC to participate in emergency preparedness activities and citywide planning with DOHMH, other city agencies and organizations.
- If these monies were not available or decreased, our participation in such activities will diminish.
- HHC asks that funding be increased so that we may not only build our internal infrastructure with needed equipment and renovations but also participate in emergency hospital preparedness citywide planning activities.
- The allocation of emergency preparedness funds should also be based on risk of attack.